Lowie Ellis Brook







Rank: -2nd Airmen

Number: -42822

Regiment: - Royal Flying Corps 6th Squadron + 218th Siege Battery R.G.A.

Killed in Action: -3rd August 1917 aged 27

Cemetery: - Voormezeele Enclosures 1 and 2, West Vlaanderen, Belgium I.E.22

Batley News, 11 Aug 1917 (photo)

Family Details

Lowie was born in Batley on 8th May 1892 the eldest son of Ernest and Annie Brook (nee Ellis) who married on 11th December 1889 at Holy Trinity. Cyril Arthur was born in 1896 followed by Elsie in 1898.Another child died in infancy. In 1911 the family lived at 17, Ellis Row, Trinity Street, Batley Carr. Ernest was employed as a gear drawer at a woollen factory.

Lowie was educated at Warwick Road School and Wheelwright Grammar School, Dewsbury. After leaving school he became a journalist on the "Dewsbury District News" for several years before obtaining a position at the "Craven Herald" at Skipton. When he lived in Batley Carr, he attended St. Mark's Church where he was a Sunday school teacher.

On the 29th September 1915 he married Frances Mary Hepworth at St. Mark's Church, Dewsbury. She was the daughter of the late Samuel Chadwick Hepworth who was for many years connected with the firm Messrs. Hepworth and Haley, rug manufacturers who resided at "Oakridge" West Park Road, Dewsbury.

Service Details

In January 1916 Lowie attended the Wireless School in Leeds with a view to joining the Wireless Squadron of the Royal Flying Corps. On the 9th August 1916 he started his training at Farnborough where he passed head of his school showing his aptitude for the work. He went on to have a special course of study and was last home at Christmas 1916 when his father in law passed away. He went to France immediately afterwards and fought in many of the battles on the Western Front.

Capt. H. Leslie R.G.A. wrote: -

"4th August 1917, -- Dear Mrs. Brook, It is with feelings of deepest regret I write to inform you that your husband Second Airman L.E.Brook , was killed in action yesterday. He was in his dug out when a shell fell directly on to it killing him instantly. I hope it may be of some consolation to you in your great sorrow that he was an excellent soldier always carrying on with keenness and cheerfulness. He had many friends in the Battery and was highly esteemed by officers and men. His loss will be severely felt. On behalf of all ranks I wish to express our heartfelt

sympathy with you and may you be comforted by the knowledge that your husband has paid the supreme sacrifice in a great and noble cause."

His Wireless Officer ,2nd Lieut. C. Sinclair Hickie wrote: -

"He was only with me for a short time, but quite long enough for me to know what a splendid fellow he was. He was extremely popular and well liked in his battery: as a worker he was most painstaking and conscientious and had he been spared; he would have made great headway in the Army. We are prouder of him in the R.F.C. and his loss is keenly felt."

His brother who was a gunner in the Machine Gun Corps was injured by a sniper in the battle where Earl Faversham died on 15th September 1916 but completely recovered.

He was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Lowie is remembered with Honour at Holy Trinity Church, Batley Carr, Wheelwright Grammar School, Batley War Memorial and Dewsbury War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group